



## A STAMPEDE.

Did you ever see a stampede of buffaloes? No! Well, the man who has seen one, and lived to tell of it, has witnessed a spectacle to be vividly remembered all his days.

A stampede was a common occurrence in the life of every western hunter twenty years ago; but no one will ever look upon one aain. The hide hunters have not left a score of the animals alive.

What creates a stampede? Nothing—anything. While the buffalo is born in a wild state, and ought to get accustomed to storms, the sight of wolves, and all kinds of noises, he is the most timid animal on earth. I have seen the coming up of a dark cloud stampede ten thousand buffaloes. I have known the howl of a wolf to set a big herd in motion. A flash of lightning or a clasp of thunder seemed to scare them half to death, although you would argue that they would get used to it. And once started nothing but a mountain could turn the great wave aside and only exhaustion would bring them back to their senses. After a herd had fairly started, terror seemed to take complete possession of them, and it was the devil seize the last one. Then it was woe to the pioneer or hunter who happened to be in their path without a grove to shelter them.

I saw, in 1867, on the Loup Fork of the Platte River, an emigrant camp which had been run over by a stampede. There had been seven wagons and 24 people, with about 30 head of horses and cattle. The rushing, terror-stricken herd struck the camp just at daybreak and was 15 or 20 minutes passing. Only one human being escaped—a man who was carried off on the back of a buffalo, and left at a spot 10 miles away. Not an animal was left, not a vehicle escaped destruction. I saw the site of the camp about noon of that day, and there wasn't a piec'e of any of the heavy wagons which I could not have carried off under my arm. The people had been tramped into the earth—annihilated—wiped out. The remains could scarcely be recognized as those of human beings.

But as to my own adventure. There were four hunters of us in the locality spoken of, killing various kinds of game and doing a little trapping, and though plenty of re'skin's were in that country, they did not get on to us for a week. We had a camp on a small run or creek, with a grove of about a dozen trees for shelter, and about two miles to the north was a spring another grove.

The Indians hadn't got hold of Winchesters and knew nothing of revolvers in those days, and a war party of less than 25 would have hesitated to attack four hunters. We kept our eyes open, however, and one was on the watch while the other three slept. We had been in camp nine or ten days, and constantly surrounded by buffaloes, when, one afternoon, just before sunset, it was apparent from the actions of the animals that something was in the wind. The detachments were consolidating, all stray bulls joining the herd, and almost every buffalo ceased feeding and acted anxious and ill at ease.

That meant Indians. Curious as you may think it, the presence of an Indian will dislodge the buffaloes sooner than that of the white man. We couldn't say whether it was a war party, hanging around to attack us, or a hunting party hovering on the flanks of the great herd, but we made all preparations that night in case of an assault.

I have seen some of the grand herds. It was composed of a few strayed animals, and I was in an instant aghast. Now this is what I mean—just before night. A war party can be detected miles off, and even a hunting party can be detected miles off, but a herd of buffaloes can't carry our countryman along toward daylight the same way. A herd of buffaloes can be detected miles off, and the noise of their stampede will be heard for miles around. They would be observed by the strayed and weakly males, and even cause them to scatter. Well, it was just this moment when the Indians must have scattered down to the south, when the two herd, with their gathering, came into view of the hunting party. The strayed herd from the north had, and was still, moving by me, and we had our gun-horses could see the Indian sign perfectly. I knew he was an Indian, that was all, but they were mixed with the herd, and the herd was so enormous for its size. The two should have been a match for me, and eight or eight men, but the sight of the herd would have saved the rest, and given them no scruples to shoot. He might not have known our strength, and we were spending the valuable moment in running, or looking for place to fall off. The only hope they could have was in riding across the face of the herd, but that was out of the question. The front cowherd, as we afterwards knew, a distance of seven miles, and the Indians had barely got started when the first buffaloes were in sight.

They came thicker than bees, their heads down, horns rubbing, and feet making great clatter, and while we looked we saw the war party swallowed up in that great, roaring sea of animal life. A moment later an oil train dashed into and through the grove, and every man sprang for a tree. As I now think, the strayed herd struck the bank, and those I was secure only the strayed herd in the grove were standing. All the oil had been ignited by contact, and the crippled animals were between the ground beneath me. Our horse stamp'd everything, and in two moments the horse was 10 times more dangerous than a hurricane at sea, and the crippled animals was something ap-

I have told you that the front of the herd was seven miles across. You can imagine the depth must have been when I tell you that they were three hours in passing. Every animal was crippled, and like most could not go less than 10 miles an hour, and a horse to make an oil train dash over a road usually does, when it is not allowed to run, and a horse being driven along the road can not run fast enough to

the country about us was a sight to behold. There were at least 150 dead or crippled animals in sight, and there was a swath seven miles wide, which had cut the very life out of the prairie. Of all our camp equipage we could not find one solitary article of wood, or iron, or leather. All our horses had been trampled under within less than a mile of the grove, and their bodies were sights no one could look at twice. We spread out to see what fate had befallen the Indians, and we did not have to go far. They had been knocked down and stamped into the earth. A member of the same tribe, with whom I talked a year later, told me that not one survived, and the loss had almost demoralized the tribe.

### Arrangement of the Hair.

When women complain of headache, I wonder if their manner of wearing the hair has not something to do with it. Why not arrange it loosely so that the air may reach the head? By this means the exhalations which are continually passing off from the surface would be removed. To bind it tight in bands or coils prevents this, and the hair soon becomes foul and unwholesome; the impurities passing off through the skin are reabsorbed, the pores become clogged, and the head aches. Another cause of headache is the unequal weight caused by the piling up of braids and coils on one part of the head, and drawing it tight by strings and hairpins, so that it may stay in place. Still more reprehensible is the practice of wearing switches and cushions to increase the apparent amount. They cause the head to an unnatural degree, and cause diseases of the scalp, which can be cured in no other way than by the discontinuance of the cause. The hair should always be worn in such a way that the base of the brain is protected. To have it arranged in a way to leave that part of the head uncovered exposes the wearer to a certain risk of taking cold if a chilly wind comes from behind. It is not wise to cut the hair so short in warm weather as to leave the skin of the head exposed to view, as is the custom with many men. A good covering of hair loosely worn, and a well-ventilated hat make a very excellent protection from sunstroke.

### The Migratory Habits of Trout.

The following facts exemplify the strong migratory instincts of trout:—At the fish-culture establishment at Delafield, where the utmost care is taken to isolate the various species of salmonidae, a few of the fish are occasionally found in ponds long distances from those in which they were originally located. Considering that each pond is constructed so as to prevent such a contingency, the occurrence is very remarkable, and can only be accounted for in two ways viz., that the fish either burrow through holes probably made by rats and moles, or they jump out of the water and proceed to the next pond. It is not likely that they are borne thence by birds, as the appearance of the salmon for occasions referred to does not justify such an assumption.

### The Limit of Chemical Research.

Prof. Bolton expresses the opinion that the crowning glory of modern chemistry is the power of producing, in the laboratory, from inorganic matter, substances identical with those existing in the vegetable and animal kingdom. It being known now that the physiological laws of plants and animals are different, and very different in special particular, it is interesting to inquire into the exact nature of these differences.

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Indian Gamblers and Jockeys.

All Indians after a while become expert card players, and the Flatheads are no exception to the rule. These Indians are not afraid to try their skill and serve with the sportive frontiersmen of the northwest, with whom they frequently have long sessions of draw. To these experienced gamblers the local fry are a child. Many a young buck with a inheritance to speak of, has enriched himself amazingly at the expense of wayfarers who have fallen by the wayside. Some of these youngsters who draw the right card, at the right time, have fine large herds of ponies to their credit, in consequence thereof. As jockey riders the Flatheads and their relations have perhaps no equals on earth. Raised as they are from childhood almost on a pony's back, so to speak, it is no wonder they become superior equestrians.

When preparing for a race, the young bucks sit in themselves of their clothing so as to present as little resistance to the air as possible. A Flathead jockey mounted for business, is dressed in nothing more than a breech clout, and perhaps, a thin cotton shirt, which floats in the breeze but offers no impediment to rider or horse. Leaning forward on their hardy little cayuses they dash down the race-course like the wind, jumping ditches and dodging trees with a precision and still truly marvellous. The white man's race-course is a flat, level stretch of ground, rolled smooth, over which the animal simply runs, while his rider has nothing much to do except hold his seat. On the other hand, an Indian will race over any kind of ground, along timber or swimming streams combining with the simple speed of his animal, individual skill and judgment in surmounting a score of obstacles and always coming under the wire ahead. A white man seldom wins a race from an Indian, and there is no wonder for it.

The Amount of Rain Water.

Let us see what amount of rain water three inches of rainfall represents on an acre of ground. 6,772,640 square inches in an acre. One inch of rain would represent the same number of square inches. In a cubic foot there are 1,728 inches. An inch of rain falling upon one acre is equivalent to 3,630 cubic feet. The weight of a cubic foot of water is 624 pounds. Two thousand pounds make a ton. It follows from the premises, that an inch of rain falling upon an acre of ground will weigh 226,975 pounds, which is the equivalent of 113 tons and 875 pounds to the acre. Three times this amount gives 346 tons and 625 pounds to the acre. In some hard rainstorms an inch of rain will fall in two or three hours. We have known an inch to fall in an hour. The impact of 113 tons of water on an acre, falling suddenly, is very great. That is what packs the land so hard. A gentle rain or mere drizzle is always more beneficial to the land. It makes muddy streets, while a hard rain washes them clean. The farmer is glad to get twenty inches of rain for the season. But this is more than 2,500 tons of the acre. It is this quantity which fills up the springs and the sources of the rivers and keeps them alive during the long dry summer. There will be thirty inches or more in an extreme wet winter. Any one can figure out on the data here given what proportion that will give to an acre of ground.

Something About the Bicycle.

You might think that only the legs would be exercised by riding a wheel, but it is a fact that a beginner feels the effects first in his shoulders and back. The muscles of the trunk, particularly about the sides and abdomen, are also used a great deal. Although the action of the legs appears to be similar to their use in walking, it is found that his muscles in the calf not used at all in walking are brought into play. You can work those muscles by riding on your toes, but in walking they are not exercised. The speed attainable on ordinary roads in a ride of four or five hours, taking it comfortably and not trying to make a record, will average about eight miles an hour. It is a good horse that will keep up that gait. Expert riders can out-travel any horse that ever wore shoes in a twenty-four hour journey, but that, of course, is a feat of endurance. For practical, reasonable travel, the bicycle is superior to a horse on good roads, and is by no means a plaything or an athlete's apparatus. It is a business and pleasure vehicle and ought to be so considered in the public mind. A. M. K. in Boston, Mass.

Portland Cement.

Portland cement is an artificial cement, chemically proportioned by the simple selection of the material entering into its composition. These, whether shale or clay, as in England, marl or chalk, or loam, sand, or hydraulic lime, are so finely ground and powder by the use of dry mills and this powder, being mainly consisting of fine particles of the finest size, is the best possible cement for drying and setting.

This cement is made in a special kiln, the heat being supplied by gas, oil, coal, coke, wood, or charcoal. The heat is at high temperature to decompose the limestone and the silicate minerals proportionately, when properly proportioned.

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